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A.D. 1875, 30th *MARCH*. N° 1152.

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**Medicinal Discs.**

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**LETTERS PATENT** to William Robert Barker, of the Firm of Savory and Moore, of New Bond Street, in the County of Middlesex, for the Invention of “**A NEW OR IMPROVED MANUFACTURE OF MEDICINAL DISCS TO BE EMPLOYED FOR SURGICAL AND MEDICINAL PURPOSES.**”

Sealed the 28th September 1875, and dated the 30th March 1875.

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**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION** left by the said William Robert Barker at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 30th March 1875.

I, WILLIAM ROBERT BARKER, of the Firm of Savory and Moore, of  
5 New Bond Street, in the County of Middlesex, do hereby declare the  
nature of the said Invention for “**A NEW OR IMPROVED MANUFACTURE OF  
MEDICINAL DISCS TO BE EMPLOYED FOR SURGICAL AND MEDICINAL PURPOSES,**” to  
be as follows:—

The Invention relates to a new or improved manufacture of medicinal  
10 or medicated discs to be used for medical and surgical purposes, such  
discs consisting of gelatine, isinglass, or their compounds, preserving in



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*Barker's Improvements in the Manufacture of Medicinal Discs.*

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its or their congealed state certain curative component chemicals previously added thereto and mixed therewith for subsequent use in a soluble condition as a medicine, or medicines, or for surgical purposes by injection, or as a medicament or medicaments.

The process of manufacture and the method of using such prepared 5 gelatinous compound are as follows:—The gelatine, or isinglass, or suitable compounds thereof being reduced to a state of solution by convenient means is prepared to receive by admixture and in exact proportions by weight the necessary chemical ingredients, the nature of which corresponds with the class of ailment or disease to which they are 10 intended to apply; as examples, morphia, atropia, strychnia, codeia, quinine, or ergotine, or others, more especially their salts may be used and mixed with the prepared gelatine, or isinglass, or their compounds, the strength and quantities of which must be carefully regulated. As an example of proportion I propose in using the sulphate of atropia 15 when the same is to be administered to arrest the profuse perspiration of pthisis to so regulate the dose as that each disc shall contain about the one hundred and twentieth part of a grain of atropia.

It is well known that the class of medicinal substances enumerated constantly lose their strength by exposure to the air and decomposition 20 of aqueous solutions. These solutions, especially of potent alkaloids, become weaker in a rapid degree by constant manipulation of the chemist or surgeon; but by admixture with properly prepared gelatine, or isinglass, or their compounds, and by subsequent solidification, all the strength of their valuable preparations is inevitably preserved for any 25 length of time notwithstanding continual exposure to air, so that the discs may be carried in the pocket if required in a bottle or case.

The discs are easily formed from the soft gelatinous mass either by rolling it, or by moulding, or by any other convenient method of division. It is only necessary when using them to dissolve one or more in water 30 or other suitable liquid when they may be applied to surgical purposes, as in the case of hypodermic injections, the chemicals being then once more set free to act with their full virtue and effect when expelled by a syringe or other injector. By the same solutions the chemical compounds may be administered as medicines, or they may be applied to the 35 patient as medicaments, always constituting convenient vehicles for



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conveying or applying the special curative properties of the chemical compound to the benefit of the patient. Or the discs may be placed on the tongue of the patient and thus dissolved.

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**SPECIFICATION** in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent,  
5 filed by the said William Robert Barker in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 30th September 1875.

**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, WILLIAM ROBERT BARKER,** of the Firm of Savory and Moore, of New Bond Street, in the County of Middlesex, send greeting.

10 **WHEREAS** Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, in the thirty-eighth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said William Robert Barker,  
15 Her special licence that I, the said William Robert Barker, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said William Robert Barker, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and  
20 lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for “**A NEW OR IMPROVED MANUFACTURE OF MEDICINAL DISCS TO BE EMPLOYED FOR SURGICAL AND MEDICINAL PURPOSES,**” upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said William Robert Barker,  
25 my executors or administrators, by an instrument in writing under my, or their, or one of their hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and  
30 immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

**NOW KNOW YE,** that I, the said William Robert Barker, do hereby declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the



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same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

My Invention relates to a new or improved manufacture of medicinal or medicated discs to be used for medical and surgical purposes, such discs consisting of gelatine, isinglass, or their compounds, preserving in its or their congealed state certain curative component chemicals previously added thereto and mixed therewith for subsequent use in a soluble condition as a medicine, or medicines, or for surgical purposes by injection, or as a medicament or medicaments. 5

The process of manufacture and the method of using such prepared gelatinous compound are as follow:—The gelatine, or isinglass, or suitable compounds thereof being reduced to a state of solution by convenient means is prepared to receive by admixture and in exact proportions by weight the necessary chemical ingredients, the nature of which corresponds with the class of ailment or disease to which they are intended to apply; as for example, morphia, atropia, strychnia, codeia, quinine or ergotine, or others, more especially their salts, may be used and mixed with the prepared gelatine, or isinglass, or their compounds, the strength and quantities of which must be carefully regulated. As an example of proportion I propose in using the sulphate of atropia when the same is to be administered to arrest the profuse perspiration of phthisis to so regulate the dose as that each disc shall contain about the one hundred and twentieth part of a grain of atropia. 10 15 20

It is well known that the class of medicinal substances enumerated constantly lose their strength by exposure to the air, and decomposition of aqueous solutions. These solutions, especially of potent alkaloids, become weaker in a rapid degree by constant manipulation of the chemist or surgeon; but by admixture with properly prepared gelatine, or isinglass, or their compounds, and by subsequent solidification, all the strength of their valuable preparations is inevitably preserved for any length of time notwithstanding continual exposure to air, so that the discs may be carried in the pocket, or in a bottle, or case. 25 30

The discs are easily formed from the soft gelatinous mass either by rolling it, or by moulding, or by any other convenient method of division. It is only necessary when using them to dissolve one or more in water or other suitable liquid when they may be applied to surgical purposes as in the case of hypodermic injections, the chemicals then 35



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being once more set free to act with their full virtue and effect when expelled by a syringe or other injector. By the same solutions the chemical compounds may be administered as medicines, or they may be applied to the patient as medicaments, always constituting convenient  
5 vehicles for conveying or applying the special curative properties of the chemical compounds to the benefit of the patient. Or the discs may be placed on the tongue of the patient and thus dissolved.

Having now described the nature of my said Invention, and the manner in which the same is to be performed, I would remark that I do  
10 not limit myself to the use of the chemical ingredients named, as of course there are many others which could be adapted to the purposes of the Invention. The examples I have given shew sufficiently the principle whereby other examples can be based, care being taken in all cases to regulate the proportions in accordance with the prescribed formulæ for  
15 the important and powerful medicines or ingredients employed. I claim and desire to be secured to me by the herein in part recited Letters Patent, the new manufacture of medicated or medicinal discs for surgical and medical purposes by the admixture of the necessary medicinal ingredients, such as morphia, atropia, and others in proper proportions,  
20 with a base of gelatine, or isinglass, or suitable compounds thereof, all substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

In witness whereof, I, the said William Robert Barker, have here-  
unto set my hand and seal, this Twenty-second day of September,  
in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-  
25 five.

W. R. BARKER. (L.S.)

Witness,

WILLIAM PROCTOR.

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